Setting up of High Powered financial conunittee over ONGC

1482. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the general response to the proposal of Government to set up a high power committee with financial powers to tt'ke investment decisions beyond the powers of the ONGC; and

(b) what are the salient features of this proposal and by when this Committee is likeiy to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) A_s per the present Memorandum of Understanding, delega-. tion of additional financial powers to ONGC are to be considered in respect of replacement and renewals of assets, additions and nsw investments and release of foreign exchange. Establishments of an Empowered Committee would be considered only aftef comprehensive proposals are received from ONGC for achievement of 8th Plan targets for oil and natural gas.

foreign collaboration for oil exploration

1483. SHRI T. R. BALU; SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the countries which have offered financial and technical assistance • to India for oil exploration and what are the details thereof, countrywise;

(b) how many oil wells have been developed so far with foreign expertise arid technical collaboration; and

(c) how many oil ^{we}"s are in the process of development in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Financial and technical assistance have been offered/rendered for different exploration activities like surveys, basin modelling, drilling, etc by USSR, U.K., Canada & France.

(b) and (c) Contracts have been signed with USSR under Intensive Integrated Exploration Programme in North Cambay, Cauvery and West Bengai basins under Soviet asistance. 73 weils are to be drilled under the Intensive Integrated Exploration Programme. So far nine Weils in Cambay basin and two wells in Cauvery basin have already been drilled. Two weils in Cambay basin, three weils in Cauvery basin and one well in West Bengal basin are currently beins drilled.

Hearing by price review committee relating to drugs

1484. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1607 and 1623 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1989 .and state .

(a) what are the names of drug com panies .and names of drugs involved for which Price Review Committee gave hear ing;

(b) what was the price recommended for each drug;

(c) whether it is a fact that M/s. Glaxo was not involved in litigation in the Supreme Court;

(d) if so, how the committee heared their representations even by going be-youd the terms of reference; and

(e) on what basis the committee recommended increase of price of Betamethasone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRi P. NAMGYAL): (a) The